

Tunnel, The gates already lowered for Tunnei T-4 were removed. On 1.6.2000, GOUP took a decision to close the gates of Tunnel-3 by 15th October, 2000.

As the New State of Uttarakhand was in the offing, the closure of Tunnel T-3 & T-4 was deferred as it would be appropriate for the new State Government of Uttarakhand to implement major decision of shifting of population of Old Tehri Town and closure of Tunnel T-3 & T-4. Accordingly, the matter was taken up with Uttarakhand Government who indicated that it would be possible to close the diversion tunnels and requested for the additional rehabilitation package earlier proposed by Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Central Government has agreed in principle for additional rehabilitation package amounting to Rs. 12.49 crores for the residents of Old Tehri Town.

In addition, a request has been made by the Government of Uttarakhand for infrastructural facilities for rural areas beyond submergence. This does not come under the frame work of the Rehabilitation & Resettlement, nor forms part of the Hanumantha Rao Committee's recommendations on rehabilitation.

Case against M/s Perutek Services Ltd.

*374. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s Perutek Services Ltd., a New Delhi based NBFC and cheated many investors of their hard-earned money, by attracting investments from them and whether it is also a fact that a case has been lodged with the Delhi Police (FIR No. 851/98) against the said Company;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Directors of the said Company were apprehended/arrested about a year ago; and

(c) if so, the efforts made/being made by Police officials to trace the huge public money so locked-up with the Company and return the same to the respective investors and by when the same would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Delhi Police have registered two FIRs against M/s Perutek Services Ltd. on receipt of complaints that the complainants had been cheated of their investments in the said Company. Three of the accused persons including the Chairman and 2 Directors of the Company were arrested in the case. During the Course of investigation Delhi Police identified a number of bank deposits and immovable properties. These bank deposits have been frozen and original sale deeds of immovable properties have been seized. The accused persons have been granted conditional bail by the Delhi High Court with the directions that they would sell their properties and deposit the proceeds with the Registrar of Delhi High Court. The accused persons have so far deposited Rs. 26 lakhs with the Registrar of Delhi High Court. The matter is listed for hearing on 10th April, 2001, however, as of now the Delhi High Court have not issued any directions regarding the mode of repayment of money to the investors.

Increase in the cost of power production due to hike in coal prices

† *375. DR. D. MASTHAN: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cost of power production has increased due to recent hike in the coal prices;
- (b) if so, the assessment with regard to the increase in cost of power production due to this hike of the coal prices; and
- (c) the average ash content in the coal used for power production?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) The cost of power production in coal based power stations is directly linked to the cost of the coal, as coal is a major input, which determines the cost of production of power. The prices of coal produced by the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited have been increased with effect from 1.2.2001, thereby increasing the cost of power production by 3—6 paise per unit, depending upon the grade

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.